

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING FOREIGN MINISTER SORSA

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER SORSA CALLED ON THE SECRETARY AUGUST 3, FOLLOWING A MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND KEKKONEN EARLIER THE SAME DAY. THE CONVERSATION WAS A BROAD RANGING REVIEW OF US POLICY ON EUROPEAN QUESTIONS, EAST/WEST TRADE, NORTH/SOUTH RELATIONS AND PUERTO RICO AT THE UNGA. PRESENT ON THE FINNISH SIDE WERE AMBASSADOR TUOMINEN AND MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR KLAUS TORNUDD. AMBASSADOR AUSTAD AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE ALSO ATTENDED. END SUMMARY.

2. MBFR. SORSA OPENED WITH AN ASSESSMENT THAT THE SITUATION IN EUROPE SEEMED GENERALLY STABLE, AND THAT THERE WERE NO IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS ON THE HORIZON. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY SORSA, THE SECRETARY COMMENTED THAT THE VIENNA TALKS WERE STALLED AND THERE WAS NO CLEAR CONCEPT OF WHAT THEY WERE TO ACHIEVE. FRENCH UNWILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE FORCE DATA POSED A SERIOUS PROBLEM. THE SECRETARY ADDED
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THAT THE SOVIETS HAD PROVIDED US WITH THEIR OWN FORCE DATA

EARLIER THIS YEAR, BUT THAT WE COULD NOT AGREE WITH SOME OF THEIR CONCLUSIONS.

3. SOVIET/NORWEGIAN FRICTION. SORSA COMMENTED THAT RELATIONS AMONG THE BALTIC STATES WERE GOOD, BUT THAT THERE WERE PROBLEMS IN THE NORTH. THE SOVIETS HAD IMPORTANT NAVAL INTERESTS ON THE KOLA PENINSULA AND WERE CONCERNED OVER OIL AND GAS DISCOVERIES. THEY WERE ALSO TROUBLED BY THE INTERNATIONAL STATUS OF SPITSBERGEN AND HAD AN UNRESOLVED BOUNDARY QUESTION WITH NORWAY. ON THE LAST POINT, SORSA REFERRED TO SOVIET MISSILE TESTS IN THE DISPUTED AREA FOLLOWING NORWEGIAN RESEARCH ACTIVITIES THERE. JUDGING THAT THE SITUATION COULD BECOME SERIOUS, HE ASKED WHETHER WE PLANNED TO BE ACTIVE.

4. THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WHILE WE SUPPORTED THE NORWEGIANS, WE DID NOT WISH TO SEE THE SOVIETS PROVOKED. THE SOVIETS MUST NOT BE PERMITTED TO ESTABLISH UNILATERAL CLAIMS, AND WE WOULD RESIST ANY EFFORT TO GO BEYOND THE PRESENT SITUATION.

5. EAST/WEST TRADE. THE SECRETARY SAID WE WERE VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF EXPANDED TRADE, AND SPECIFICALLY CITED HIS SUPPORT FOR REPEAL OF THE JACKSON AMENDMENT. WE COULD NOT HOWEVER ALLOW THE SOVIETS TO TURN TRADE INTO A POLITICAL WEAPON. THEY HAD INCURRED 40 TO 50 MILLION DOLLARS OF DEBT, AND THEIR TRADE WAS MANAGED BY STATE TRADING MACHINERY DEALING WITH PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL FIRMS IN THE WEST. WE HAD TO DETERMINE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DEBT, KNOW WHY WE SHOULD FINANCE IT, DEVELOP A COMMON WESTERN RATIONALE, AND COORDINATE MORE CAREFULLY IN FUTURE EAST/WEST TRADE.

6. PUERTO RICO. THE SECRETARY DESCRIBED THIS AS A VERY DIFFICULT ISSUE, AND SAID THAT IF THE UN VOTE GOES AGAINST US WE MIGHT LEAVE THE SESSION.

7. LDC DEBT. THE SECRETARY AGREED WITH SORSA THAT PROGRESS IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE WAS NOT ENCOURAGING. ON DEBT RELIEF, WE WERE NOT OPPOSED IN PRINCIPLE BUT HAD

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REJECTED THE GROUP OF 19 PROPOSAL AS AN ATTEMPT TO INSTRUCT THE COMMISSION IN ADVANCE. IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF DEBTS OWED TO THE UNITED STATES, BUT RATHER THE DISCIPLINE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM. COUNTRIES WHICH HAD DONE THE RIGHT THING IN THE PAST MUST NOT BE PENALIZED. SORSA FOUND THE AMOUNT OF CRITICISM OF THE WEST ASTONISHING IN VIEW OF THE EXTENSIVE AID AND ASSISTANCE IT PROVIDES. THE SECRETARY AGREED, ATTRIBUTED MUCH OF THIS TO A

LACK OF PUBLICITY, BUT ADDED THAT HE BELIEVED THE LDCS
UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION. IN THE END, NINETY PERCENT OF

LDC AID CAME FROM THE WEST. WE COULD NOT BE ISOLATED,
EVEN IN THE FACE OF MAJORITY VOTES AGAINST US, IF WE
DIDN'T PANIC. KISSINGER

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